

Message Text

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53

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-13 ISO-00 SCCT-01 DHA-02 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAEE-00 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01

OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAL-01

/117 W

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O R 021341Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4184

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 9287

DEPARTMENT FOR D/LOS

BRASILIA FOR ASST. SEC. LEWIS

USUN FOR LOS DEL - MR. RANDOLPH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, UNGA, OVIP (LEWIS, SAMUEL W), VE

SUBJECT: UNGA CONSULTATIONS - LEWIS VISIT TO VENEZUELA, AGENDA

REF: CARACAS 8865, CARACAS 8319, BOGOTA 7638, STATE 175967

1. DURING JULY 30 CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER RAMON ESCOVAR SALOM,
AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED FORTHCOMING VISIT OF ASST. SECRETARY LEWIS
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TO CARACAS. ESCOVAR SAID HE WELCOMED VISIT AND MENTIONED FOLLOWING

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST GO GOV:

A) TERRORISM - ENTEBBE INCIDENT MAKES THIS ISSUE UNUSUALLY SIGNIFICANT FOR FORTHCOMING UNGA. AS USG KNOWS, GOV IS INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING EFFORT TO DETER TERRORISM, AND ESCOVAR PLANS TO MAKE PROPOSALS IN THIS REGARD BEFORE UNGA IN SEPTEMBER. HE THEREFORE IS LOOKING FORWARD WITH PARTICULAR INTEREST TO GETTING USG VIEWS, SINCE EVEN A CLEAR DEFINITION OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE, MUCH LESS EFFECTIVE SANCTIONS.

B) PANAMA - VENEZUELA HAS DELIBERATELY AVOIDED ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE ON CANAL ISSUE AND ESCOVAR WAS OF OPINION THAT TORRIJOS IS ALSO TAKING MODERATE TACK. GOV REALIZES FULL WELL THE "ELECTORAL PROBLEM" IN THE U.S. ON THIS ISSUE. THUS, VENEZUELA DOES NOT EXPECT MOVEMENT UNTIL AFTER OUR ELECTIONS.

C) HUMAN RIGHTS - ESCOVAR OPINED THAT JULY 24 KILLING OF SOCIALIST LEAGUE LEADER RODRIGUEZ, A KEY SUSPECT INVOLVED IN NIEHOUS CASE BY VENEZUELAN SECURITY POLICE WAS "UNFORTUNATE". THIS INCIDENT, HOWEVER, REPRESENTS ONLY AN ISOLATED CASE AND HAS NOT UNDER-MIND GOV'S MORAL QUTHORITY AS A REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY NOR HAS IT DIMINISHED GOV'S CONCERN ABUT HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT HEMISPHERE. ESCOVAR EXPRESSED HOPE THAT NIEHOUS CASE WOULD NOT DAMGE US-GOV BILATERAL RELATIONS.

D) PUERTO RICO - GOV WILL NOT SUPPORT INDEPENDENCE RESOLUTIONS. IN THIS REGARD, HOWEVER, ESCOVAR ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHETHER LEWIS WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IN SOME DEPTH QUESTION OF PUERTO RICAN CONTINENTAL SHELF ("PLATAFORMA CONTINENTAL") WITH GOV OFFICIALS. AMBASSADOR SAID WE WOULD INFORM THE DEPARTMENT AND MR. LEWIS OF HIS INTEREST BEFORE ASST. SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL.

2. COMMENT/ACTION REQUEST: ESCOVAR'S INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS, TERRORISM, PANAMA AND PUERTO RICO REFLECT GOV'S HIGH PRIORITY ITEMS FOR UPCOMING UNGA. EMBASSY HAS NO SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON PUERTO RICAN CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE, ALTHOUGH WE PRESUME ESCOVAR'S QUERY ARISES FROM GOV'S ACTIVE ROLE IN CURRENT LOS CONFERENCE AND VENEZUELAN ROLE AS CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE II. IT MAY ALSO RELATE TO CURRENT BILL BEFORE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHICH WOULD GRANT PUERTO RICO GREATER CONTROL OVER THE ENVIRONMENT. PLEASE ADVISE
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ASAP. SEPTEL FOLLOWS WITH TENTATIVE SCHEDULE.
VAKY

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